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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES
306 U. S. Court House, Portland 5, Oregon

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1949
(March 1, 1949)

The acreage of principal spring planted field crops (excluding hay) in Oregon this year is expected to equal or slightly exceed the 1948 acreage, according to reports of farmers to the Crop Reporting Service. Increases are expected as follows: Oats up 3/4 per cent, including fall seeded, corn 3 per cent, potatoes 5 per cent, and dry edible peas 5 per cent. On the other hand, decreases are expected in the following crops: Spring wheat down 10 per cent, barley down 20 per cent, and flaxseed down 40 per cent. Washington and Idaho farmers also expect decreased acreages of spring wheat and barley and both plan to increase the dry edible pea acreage. Substantial increases are indicated in Idaho for both oats and potatoes while Washington expects decreases in these two crops.

A 4 per cent increase is expected in the acreage to be cut for hay in Oregon this year, while the State of Washington expects a 2 per cent increase and Idaho a 3 per cent increase.

The very favorable fall of 1948 permitted an unusually large amount of fall seeding. However, the severe winter followed by a rapid thaw with rains, which caused much erosion, has resulted in above average damage to fall seeded acreages. The extent of "winter kill" was, however, not fully apparent in late February and early March when the information for this report was gathered, but it has since become evident that damage was quite severe to some fall seeded crops in western Oregon and to fall seeded wheat in some areas in eastern Oregon. As far as the crops covered by this report are concerned, fall seeded oats and oats and vetch mixtures appear to have suffered most in western Oregon. Considerable reseeding will, of course, be necessary, but much of the damage in western Oregon will probably be reflected in reduced yields. In eastern Oregon, the damaged areas are now being reseeded to spring wheat. Because of the general heavy snowfall throughout the winter, irrigation water is expected to be ample in all areas of the State. The acreage actually planted to spring crops in 1949 may turn out to be larger or smaller than now indicated because of weather conditions, or changes of plans of producers due to price changes, labor supply, the agricultural program, etc. The table which follows summarizes planting intentions in Oregon and neighboring States:

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - OREGON AND THE NORTHWEST						
	Average 1938-47			Planted Acreages		
	Acreage	Yield per		Indicated	1949 as percent	
	Planted	Planted Acre	1948	1949	of 1948	
	(000 Acres)	Average Unit	Thous. Acres	Thous. Acres	Percent	
S P R I N G W H E A T						
Oregon	218	21.0 Bu.	205	184	90	
Washington	806	21.3 "	482	337	70	
Idaho	392	29.4 "	565	463	82	
Total 3 States	1,416	- "	1,252	984	79	
C O R N						
Oregon	48	33.1 "	31	32	103	
Washington	25	42.9 "	16	15	94	
Idaho	40	42.6 "	28	28	100	
Total 3 States	113	- "	75	75	100	
O A T S						
Oregon	446	21.3 "	338	453	134	
Washington	272	27.6 "	222	213	96	
Idaho	220	33.6 "	166	183	110	
Total 3 States	938	- "	726	849	117	
B A R L E Y						
Oregon	284	27.2 "	422	338	80	
Washington	187	30.6 "	135	105	78	
Idaho	313	33.3 "	351	316	90	
Total 3 States	784	- "	908	759	84	
A L L H A Y 1/						
Oregon	1,106	1.74 Ton	1,118	1,163	104	
Washington	923	1.92 "	832	849	102	
Idaho	1,158	2.08 "	1,085	1,118	103	
Total 3 States	3,187	- "	3,035	3,130	103	
F L A X S E E D						
Oregon	4	2/ 10.0 Bu.	15	9	60	
Washington	3	2/ 10.7 "	2	2	100	
Montana	215	5.5 "	124	124	100	
California	155	17.2 "	201	201	100	
Total 4 States	377	- "	342	336	98	
P E A S - D R Y E D I B L E 3/						
Oregon	24	1,325 Lb.	19	20	105	
Washington	227	1,169 "	156	209	134	
Idaho	136	1,155 "	72	108	150	
Total 3 States	387	- "	247	337	136	
B E A N S - D R Y E D I B L E 3/						
Washington	3	1,082 "	5	5	100	
Idaho	132	1,507 "	148	148	100	
California 4/	356	1,251 "	368	338	92	
Total 3 States	491	- "	521	491	94	
P O T A T O E S						
Oregon	42	226 Bu.	42	44	105	
Washington	38	220 "	40	37	93	
Idaho	154	227 "	148	152	103	
Total 3 States	234	- "	230	233	101	

1/ Acreage harvested.
2/ Short time average
3/ Includes acreage grown for seed
4/ Includes Limas

UNITED STATES: For the country as a whole, the smallest total acreage of spring-planted crops since the 1937-39 period appears in prospect for 1949. The decline in the total of 17 crops (including hay) surveyed at this date is from 275.0 million acres in 1948 to 270.2 million acres now in prospect. This is nearly offset, however, by the much larger acreage of winter wheat sown last fall, of which a larger proportion than usual apparently remains for harvest this season. The greatest decline in spring plantings will be in the feed grains. The chief increases over last year are indicated for plantings of spring wheat, dry peas and tobacco. Spring activities are normal to advanced over most of the country. Soil moisture and irrigation water are generally in satisfactory supply. Supplies of farm labor, seeds and fertilizers are not likely to be limiting factors in acreages planted or grown in 1949.

The 1949 acreage of principal crops "planted or grown" may total nearly 361 million acres, allowing for duplications and for certain crops not yet surveyed. This would be about 1.6 million acres less than in 1948, also below the wartime peak in 1943 and 1944, but would exceed the total in any other year since 1937. Much larger total acreages were planted or grown in the 1929-33 period, the top being 375.5 million acres in 1932.

The acreage in feed grains may be 4.5 million acres less than in 1948, if present plans materialize. Only oats are near the 1948 acreage, with increases in high yielding midwest areas offsetting declines in areas further south, where seeding has been delayed beyond usual dates. Corn acreage will be the smallest in more than 50 years, and sorghum acreage will be one-eighth less than last year. The barley acreage is 11 per cent less than last year, largely because of disappointingly low prices for the 1948 crop. With carryover stocks of feed grains at a relatively high level, and livestock numbers at a relatively low level, heavy production of feed grains does not appear necessary to farmers. Hay acreage will be about the same as last year and average, intentions being based largely upon needs, which take into account the large reserves in many areas, and the short supplies in storm and other areas where winter feeding was heavy.

Food grains will be grown on a larger acreage than ever before. Winter wheat was planted on a record acreage and has survived the winter in generally satisfactory condition. Abandonment apparently will be near the low level of recent years. With prospective spring wheat acreage nearly 4 per cent more than in 1948, a new record total wheat acreage is in prospect, exceeding that in either of the past two years by over 3.5 million acres. Rye acreage is less than for the 1948 crop. The intended rice acreage virtually equals the all-time high mark set last season.

Among the oilseeds, acreages of soybeans and flaxseed may be only slightly smaller than last year, but peanuts grown alone will be 18 per cent lower, largely because of acreage allotments in effect this season. Tobacco acreage may exceed that of 1948 by nearly 4 per cent, but is within the national allotment. Potatoes will be down nearly 7 per cent and sweetpotatoes 6 per cent below the 1948 acreage. Dry beans will be down 7 per cent, but dry peas will be up nearly one-third. The acreage of sugar beets may be 4 per cent less than in 1948.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT: UNITED STATES

	P L A N T E D A C R E A G E S			1949 as Pct. of 1948
	Average 1938-47	1948	Indicated 1949	
		Thousands		Percent
Corn, all.	90,590	86,196	84,809	98.4
All spring wheat.	18,319	19,588	20,300	103.6
Durum.	2,677	3,245	3,392	104.5
Other spring.	15,641	16,343	16,908	103.5
Oats.	42,378	44,529	44,506	99.9
Barley.	14,607	13,295	11,885	89.4
Flaxseed.	3,472	4,889	4,713	96.4
Rice.	1,378	1,757	1,753	99.8
Sorghums for all purposes.	16,810	13,813	12,144	87.9
Potatoes.	2,799	2,127	1,980	93.1
Sweetpotatoes.	717	519	489	94.2
Tobacco 1/.	1,653	1,538	1,596	103.8
Beans, dry edible.	2,001	1,971	1,834	93.0
Peas, dry field.	487	309	409	132.4
Soybeans 2/.	11,607	11,733	11,278	96.1
Cowpeas 2/.	2,459	1,115	1,011	90.7
Peanuts 2/.	3,466	3,879	3,175	81.9
Hay 1/.	73,966	73,616	73,718	100.1
Sugar beets.	869	800	766	95.8
1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.				

Released: Portland, Oregon
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